

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9498

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3164

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, SY, US, PLO

SUBJ: SENIOR PLO OFFICIAL ON JUMBLATT AND SYRIA

1. EMBOFF HAS RECEIVED REPORT OF FURTHER REMARKS ON 9 APRIL BY SHAFIQ AL HOUT, HEAD OF PLO BEIRUT OFFICE, RE MY ACTIVITIES AND YESTERDAY'S SESSION WITH KAMAL JUMBLATT. HOUT TOLD LONG-TIME FRIEND THIS MORNING THAT JUMBLATT HAS OFFICIALLY INFORMED PLO/FATAH THAT HIS SECOND MEETING WITH ME WAS "VERY USEFUL AND SUCCESSFUL." HOUT, HOWEVER, WAS VERY CONCERNED WITH ONGOING ACTIVITIES OF SYRIA AND SA'IQA AND SAID THAT SA'IQA DEAD IN LAST NIGHT'S SHOOTOUT WITH PFLP WERE A SYRIAN LT.COL. AND THREE SYRIAN ENLISTED MEN. HOUT SAID THAT PLO/FATAH HOPES USG HAS NOT RPT NOT GIVEN SYRIA GREEN LIGHT TO USE SA'IQA WITH IMPUNITY AROUND TOWN.

2. ACCORDING TO HOUT, PLO/FATAH LEADERSHIP, DESPITE ITS SUSPICIONS OF USG OBJECTIVES, CONTINUES TO HAVE OPEN MIND RE MY MISSION, HE CLAIMED TO BE COUNSELLING 'ARAFAT TO ABANDON SLOGANS LIKE "WE WILL SINK SIXTH FLEET IN LEBANON" AND LEAVE THEATRICALS TO UNDERLINGS. BROWN

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